

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2021
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: PINR SCUL
SUBJECT: HEAD OF JESUIT ORDER VISITS HUNGARY

1. RIGHT REVEREND PEDRO ARRUPE, HEAD OF THE JESUIT ORDER, VISITED HUNGARY FROM JULY 12-15, AT THE INVITATION OF HUNGARIAN CARDINAL LASZLO LEKAI. THIS IS FIRST VISIT MADE TO HUNGARY BY HEAD OF THE ORDER. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO GAIN RECOGNITION FOR THE ORDER FROM THE GOH. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 100 JESUITS RESIDING IN HUNGARY WHO, UNTIL NOW, HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES AS JESUITS.

2. FROM LOCAL PRESS RELEASE STATING ARRUPE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT JESUITS IN HUNGARY "WOULD BE ABLE TO USE THEIR TALENTS AND PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS,"

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IT SEEMS CLEAR GOH WANTS TO ASSURE THAT JESUITS WILL BE UNDER CONTROL OF GOH-APPROVED HUNGARIAN CHURCH LEADERSHIP.

3. DURING HIS STAY IN HUNGARY ARRUPE WAS RECEIVED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GYORGY ACZEL, GIVING IMPORTANT OFFICIAL CACHE TO HIS VISIT. IT WAS ACZEL WHO RECEIVED BILLY GRAHAM LAST YEAR. THESE MEETINGS AND

AMOUNT OF WRITING BEING DONE BY ACZEL IN PARTY JOURNALS
ON RELIGIOUS MAKES IT CLEAR ACZEL, OVER AND ABOVE IMRE
MIKLOS WHO HEADS STATE OFFICE OF CHURCH AFFAIRS, IS THE
MAN AT THE TOP OF THE GOH FOR RELIGIOUS MATTERS.

4. COMMENT. ACCORDING TO ONE HUNGARIAN SOURCE, WHO IS
A JESUIT, VISIT OF ARRUPE WAS OF HIGHEST IMPORTANCE FOR
THE CHURCH. IT HELPS MAINTAIN TREND OF IMPROVING CHURCH-
STATE RELATIONS AND MAY SUGGEST THAT THE CHURCH CAN
STRENGTHEN ITS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN HUNGARY. JESUITS
HAVE LONG TRADITION IN THIS AREA. IN VIEW OF PUBLICITY
GIVEN VISIT IT IS LIKELY THAT IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE JESUITS
WILL BE RECOGNIZED OFFICIALLY IN HUNGARY.
EISENSTADT

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